

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10, as follows:**

Conventionally, an ultrasonic Doppler diagnostic apparatus is used as a method to know the blood flow. ~~[[The]]~~ An ultrasonic Doppler diagnostic apparatus is one in which a velocity component of the blood flow parallel to ~~[[the]]~~ an ultrasound ~~[[been]]~~ beam emitted from a probe is detected by Doppler effect to display the velocity vector approaching to the probe or coming away from the probe in color. However, because usually the ultrasonic probe comes into vertical contact with a human skin, the velocity component of the blood flow parallel to the ultrasound ~~[[been]]~~ beam emitted from the probe is small in almost all of the blood vessels running in parallel with the human skin. Therefore, it is difficult to correctly display the velocity of the blood flow. As described above, as only one specific directional component can be measured in three directional components of the velocity vector of the blood flow, the blood flow cannot be accurately displayed in ~~[[the]]~~ a conventional ultrasonic Doppler diagnostic apparatus (for example, see Patent documents 1 and 2). Currently, there is no technology for measuring the pressure distribution in the blood vessel, which is important to prediction of rupture of ~~[[the]]~~ a disabled blood vessel.

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